

SUBMISSION RELATING TO SOUTH 32 ILLAWARRA METALLURGICAL COAL APPIN MINE VENTILATION AND ACCESS PROJECT

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Application Name: Bulli Seam Operations Project

Application No: MP08_0150-Mod-3

Applicant: Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd

Location: 345 Menangle Road, Menangle (Lot 20A DP 4450)

This is a tailored personal submission in respect of the Construction and operation of mine ventilation and access infrastructure including two ventilation shafts, upcast ventilation fans and ancillary infrastructure. This is an objection for the project and it is our view that it should not be able to proceed.

Introduction

We moved to the Macarthur area 26 years ago and had been working towards our goal of owning land at Menangle and building our forever home. In 2009 we secured the land and started building our home and it has been a labour of love ever since.

We built our home with dual occupancy so that if our parents needed care in their old age they could live with us. Our family home is also our display home and office for our building company 'Craftsman Homes Southern Highlands Pty Ltd'. Our home was constructed in a manner to enable potential clients to view materials. This is not just a home, it's a display home, and it is also our office and has a basement area for storage of equipment & construction materials. It's where we conduct meetings with clients, managers and subcontractors.

We chose this location so that our business would not interfere with neighbours. It is located geographically in the centre of our franchise area for Sydney/Southern Highlands. We would be enormously financially disadvantaged if our place of business was jeopardised. Our home was designed in a manner to conduct a business that has no impact on our neighbours.

Our concerns about the proposed Mine site are deeply personal and broader as it would not only destroy our family home that our 3 children, parents, extended family and friends physically helped us build is now potentially going to be adversely affected by noise, air and water pollution. Our ten acres of land is our little piece of paradise will now be located beside a huge mine access site and have direct views to the whole project which will have devastating affects to the rural character that defines our community and the cultural landscape will be lost forever.

The stress, anxiety and heartache this has caused us and our family in the past 9 months since being notified of the proposal has been enormous. The proximity of ventilation shaft 7 to our family home is approximately 400 metres.

Current visual of our home at 30 Finns Road, Menangle (View Point 7) showing uninterrupted rural setting with potential mine site in background on right hand side of Menangle Road.



Photomontage of (View Point 7) the rear view from our home at 30 Finns Road, Menangle showing the detrimental impact of potential mine site at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle as a prominent feature of the natural rural landscape.



Sensitive Receiver location (R3) is our home at 30 Finns Road, Menangle showing the close proximity to potential mine site at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle and the potential for noise quality to be jeopardised during both construction and operational phases.



Objections

Lack of time to make a submission - We feel that the amount of time given to make comment on this huge project was totally inappropriate. Given the amount of hours that were spent by numerous consultants to prepare the reports on behalf of Illawarra Coal in relation to the 2 weeks that you have given to make a submission against this huge project that will impact our lives and the lives of the extended community is absolutely appalling. Also the timing of the notification period whilst we are currently in a pandemic and the whole of Greater Sydney, Blue Mountains & Wollongong is currently undergoing a lock down is such a disadvantage. Not only are we juggling the stress of health, family and work restrictions somehow you think it is appropriate to add this to the stress levels that are already beyond breaking point. This community consultation has simply been a tick the box exercise that is in no way can reflect an appropriate amount of engagement with the community at this particular time. When Transport for NSW notified us of the potential OSO in March of 2018 we were given 68 days to read reports, attend community meetings, talk to the Council and our neighbours prior to putting in our submission. The community has not been granted anywhere near enough time for a thorough review of this project in order to make a detailed submission.

Total disrespect for local Council Zoning - The site for your potential mine access and additional facilities is zoned through Wollondilly Council Local Environmental Plan 2011(LEP) as RU2. Under the land use table mining is a prohibited land use in this zone. However, you go straight to State Planning in order to go over the Local Councils heads and do not even have to abide by the rules and regulations in place for our area. This is a total disregard for why the Council has that particular zoning in place. When we purchased our 10 acre piece of land we were aware of the zoning and respected the conditions that were given to us to adhere to as to comply with Councils rules and vision for the future of our area and surrounding rural landscape.

Home Value & Quality of Life - The affect the proposed project will have on the value of my home and the loss of quality of home life will be enormous. We believe that we now have little to no chance of selling our property for what its worth with this application in progress. An independent valuation should have been obtained and provided by the applicant, prior to this application, so any decrease in cost can be compensated. Why should Illawarra Coal's improved efficiencies and raised profits, come at the expense of my neighbors and myself in quality of life, property value and lifestyle?

Construction & Operational Noise - We are concerned about the constant noise throughout the life of the project. All reports have been based on modelling of possible Decibel readings at certain times of the day and night. Can we have a guarantee that actual noise monitors will be set up and real time data can be available to both the nearby residents and Illawarra Coal so we can all be aware and keep records on what the actual readings are at any given time? Any exceedance in decibels of the noise monitoring need to be addressed immediately. A previous project that took place on that site in late 2020 by Illawarra Coal did not consider the surrounding residents when generators ran through the night and interrupted many peoples sleep patterns.

Acoustic Sheds - It is understood that the construction of the shafts would occur 24 hours per day, seven days per week. In the construction phase Acoustic Sheds over Ventilation Shaft 7 and Ventilation Shaft 8 have been proposed to mitigate noise emissions. Our fear is that we understand this will be a very expensive outlay to Illawarra Coal and that they may not

proceed with them. We feel that the acoustic sheds must be a condition of the consent if approval is granted due to the huge difference that they will make in noise reduction.

Air Quality - We are concerned that our air quality will be reduced by the close proximity of the mine site. We are not experts in the field of particulate matter, however would request that real time air quality monitors are put in place at our residence and other nearby residents to show the particulate matter emissions in the air at any given time and that data is made available to ourselves and Illawarra Coal for continuous review and discussions. Exceedances of the daily PM10 and PM2.5 criterion need to be addressed immediately. Construction phase will see dust generation at what wind speed will work stop?

Headframe & winder (VS7) – The headframe tower is noted to be approximately 25 metres in height, also given its location on the potential site the current level will be filled approximately 4 metres. This will mean that the visual impact on our landscape will be huge and it will significantly impact the surrounding landscape. Given that no other building within this area is over 2 storey's high this site will become a dominant feature of the landscape which is zoned RU2. Is there any possibility that this shaft can be reduced in height to be more sensitive on our environment? We appreciate neutral colours being used for materials to match the local environment however we totally refute the statement that this has been designed in order to minimise visual impact. Are there any other design options that could be used if this project is to be approved?

High Visual Impact – The project is dominant and overall negative feature to which other elements become subordinate. The project significantly and adversely affects the scenic quality of the scenery and its valued landscape characteristics. The built form and bulk will not contrast well with shapes and contours in the surrounding rural landscape. The project will become a significant component of the view from the back of our home.

Historic Heritage – The Site is part of the regional cultural landscape associated with early 19th Century settlement and the development of large rural estates such as South Camden. It has remained mostly unchanged from first European settlement and farming of the area, with little to no development. This application for the mine access site is in no way staying true to the historic heritage of our area.

Tank Water - we are concerned that our drinking water that comes off our roof will be contaminated by the construction and operation phase of the mine site. All properties within close proximity to the mine site should be allocated a suitable professional who can test the water in our rainwater tanks after each rainfall and provide a report as to whether any contaminants are polluting our drinking water. If so then alternate water supplies will need to be organised at no cost to any of the residents.

Sydney Water - Part of the mine application states that Illawarra Coal are in discussions with Sydney Water and plan to have a potable water supply to their site for the operational phase. We also suggest that all residents in close proximity to the mine site be given access to Sydney Water mains and that both the original connection and ongoing usage be paid for by Illawarra Coal Holdings PL.

Dilapidation reports – As controlled blasts to break rock will be carried out for the main shaft excavation dilapidation reports on houses & pools should be prepared prior to

commencement of any work to site be carried out and paid for by Illawarra Coal for us and all residents within close proximity.

Blasting – We are concerned about the controlled blasting that will occur for the shafts and the vibration and noise levels that will be reached. Can we have a guarantee that actual noise monitors will be set up and real time data can be available to both the nearby residents and Illawarra Coal so we can all be aware and keep records on what the actual readings are at any given time? Any exceedance in decibels of the noise monitoring need to be addressed immediately.

Sleep Disturbance – We are very concerned that the construction and operational phases of the project will cause sleep disturbance. What alternatives if any are available to use instead of the audible alarm that sounds prior to the operation of the winder/cage. We feel that as noted in the report 105dBA is not acceptable with residents in such close proximity of the project site to be continuously woken and sleep disturbance play a huge part on mental health. A previous project that took place on that site in late 2020 by Illawarra Coal did not consider the surrounding residents when generators ran continuously through the night and interrupted many peoples sleep patterns.

Rehabilitation of Site – We understand that the site if approved as a suitable project site will be decommissioned in 2041. Strict conditions should be noted confirming the timeframe of the mine access site and once a final date is issued there should be no further extensions to that date. It is expected that 5 years after the closure of the site the property will be returned to its current rural state.

No Coal Handling Facilities – The application states that the project does not propose coal handling facilities (coal stockpiles, coal haulage movements etc at the site). A condition of the consent if approved should be that this site can never ever be amended to include coal handling facilities.

Traffic – After residing for over 10 years on the Corner of Finns Road and Menangle Road, our opinion is that Menangle Road is not suitable for use by heavy vehicles. The roads in the area are of substandard quality and many sections are full of potholes and patches. The increase in heavy traffic would make these roads even worse. We are concerned by the large increase of traffic that the mine access site will require both in construction phase and operational phase. An additional 564 two-way light vehicle trips per day is enormous. Traffic impacts should be minimised and occur outside of current peak period travel on Menangle Road. Road Traffic noise should be continuously monitored and any noise level exceedances should be reported.

Lighting – As the mine site is 24 hours a day 7 days per week all lighting will need to consider visual amenity, glare, non-obtrusive lighting on neighbouring properties and minimise light spill. A previous project that took place on that site in late 2020 by Illawarra Coal did not consider the surrounding residents or commuters and the choice of lighting was offensive and distracting for drivers.

Conclusion

This mine site is neither requested nor required on a RU2 zoned parcel of land and our first preference is for the current proposal to be scrapped! State Environmental Planning Policy or

not there will be significant detrimental impact to our agricultural and heritage abundant lands. Given the arguments against this proposal it is clear that the project should not proceed at 345 Menangle Road, Menangle.

We only have one chance to get this right or we risk losing our unique story by threatening our environment and prime agricultural lands. Now is the time to save our Menangle - It's too important to lose and once it's gone it's gone!